

February 14, 2023

Dear House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2601. I am a public school teacher in the Eugene area, a member of Oregon Education Association, a PERS member, and a member of Eugene/Springfield Interfaith Earthkeepers. I am writing today in strong support of HB 2601: The Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act.

Like my colleagues, I became a teacher because I wanted to make a difference. My hard working colleagues as well as retired teacher friends and I have long settled for a career that pays a relatively low salary believing that our good benefits help to balance it out. I have at least twenty years before retirement. I have a right to know how my retirement is being invested, and I deserve to have my retirement funds protected from risky fossil fuel investments that are likely to become stranded assets.

Furthermore, I think all Oregonians can agree that we want a healthy future for our children. Over the past few years, I have experienced multiple days in September during which my students were unable to go outside for recess because the air was unhealthy to breathe due to wildfire smoke. I never experienced this as a child growing up in rural western Oregon, and as you probably know, the recent increase in large wildfires is partially due to climate change induced drought. This will only get worse if we continue with business as usual.

Therefore, I request that you support HB 2601: The Treasury Investment and Climate Protection Act. I have a right to know that my retirement is being invested responsibly, and most importantly, my students and all children have a right to a safe and habitable climate. By working toward divestment, you have the opportunity to be a part of the change we need now. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Britni Cacan